

Speaker Profile



Contact Details

Organization

Name:
Northwestern
University

Address:

Northwestern
University,
Evanston, IL 60208

Phone:

(847) 467-1363

Fax:

Email:

[v-
dravid@northwestern.edu](mailto:v-dravid@northwestern.edu)

Website:

<http://www.nuance.northwestern.edu>
<http://vpd.ms.northwestern.edu>

Name Vinayak P. Dravid, PhD

Title Professor, Materials Science & Engineering,
Director, NUANCE Center
International Institute for Nanotechnology

Institute Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60208

Professor Dravid received his undergraduate B.Tech degree from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay - India in 1984, and his PhD in Materials Science & Engineering in 1990 from Lehigh University. He started his academic career the same year at the Department of Materials Science & Engineering of Northwestern University. He is now a professor, and directs the multi-faceted NUANCE Center.

Professor Dravid's scholarly interests are at the intersection of materials, engineering, biology and medicine – specifically, synthesis and patterning of nanostructures, bio-chem diagnostics, therapeutic nanomaterials, and prudent use of emerging microscopy/probe techniques. He has authored over 175 archival journal publications and holds several patents in topics related to nanostructure synthesis, patterning, bio-chem sensors and therapeutics.

Some of Professor Dravid's patents are licensed to start-up companies involved in nanotechnology, sensor/diagnostic systems. He is involved in two early stage start-ups related to his inventions in nano-metrology toolset and bio-chem sensing.

Prof. Dravid is a recipient of various research awards including: NSF Young Investigator Award, Exxon Fellowship, IBM Faculty Award, the Microscopy Society of America (MSA) Burton Medal, the Robert L. Coble award of the American Ceramic Society, the Kurt F.J. Heinrich award from the Microbeam Analysis Society (MAS), IIM-ASM Visitor Fellowship, NIH sabbatical fellowship, IIT Bombay Alumni Award, MSE Teacher of the Year, and elected Fellow of the American Ceramic Society.

Professor Dravid serves on several advisory panels/committees for NSF, DOE, DOD/DARPA and NIH. He is on the scientific advisory boards of two nanotech start-up companies, and has served as a consultant to metrology, bio-chem companies, IP firms, the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, among others. Professor Dravid is also on the advisory board of IIT Bombay (India), board of directors of the IITB alumni heritage fund (IITBHF), and founding member of Faculty Academic Network (FAN).

Professor Dravid has advised to NGOs, professional society outreach programs and international organizations about the role of nanoscience and nanotechnology in emerging economies. One of Professor Dravid's passions is to enhance societal (including international) appreciation for science and technology, especially of materials science, nanotechnology and microscopy. He enjoys touring and hosting high schools, colleges and international visitors, and attempts to convey the beauty, diversity and complexity of science and technology and its relevance to all facets of global society.

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